Zooom-Manga
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC.

TOKYOPOP®

PICK OF THE LITTER

Yuriko Suda

Volume 1

I HAVE NO MEMORIES OF MY FAMILY.
I CAN'T SPEAK OF A SINGLE RELATIVE.
MY NAME IS RIKU FUKAGAWA. I'M 15 YEARS OLD.
IT'S SUDDEN, BUT...
RIKU!
NOW I'M LIVING A GOOD LIFE AT THE SCHOOL DORMS. I ENJOY IT AND I EVEN HAVE SOME FRIENDS.
BUT...
YES..
IT'S VERY PEACEFUL HERE.
WELL, IT WAS PEACEFUL.

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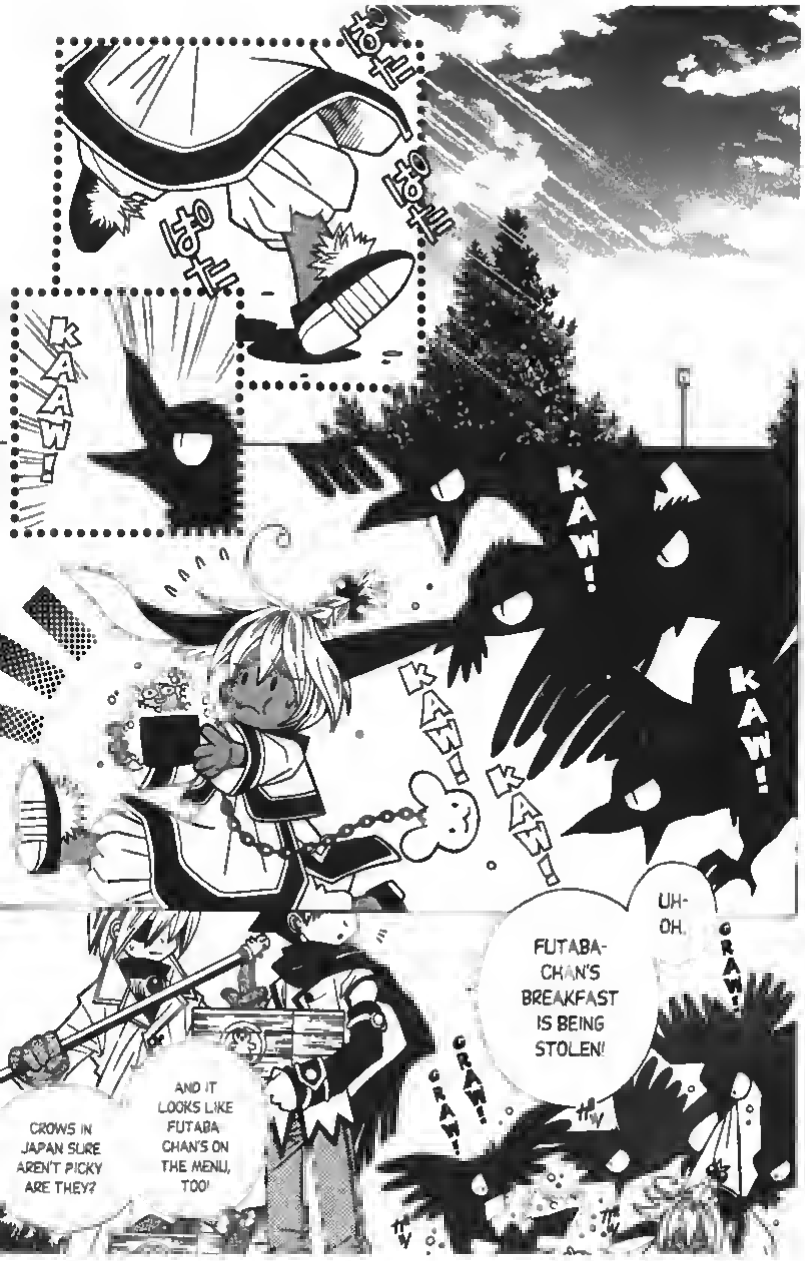
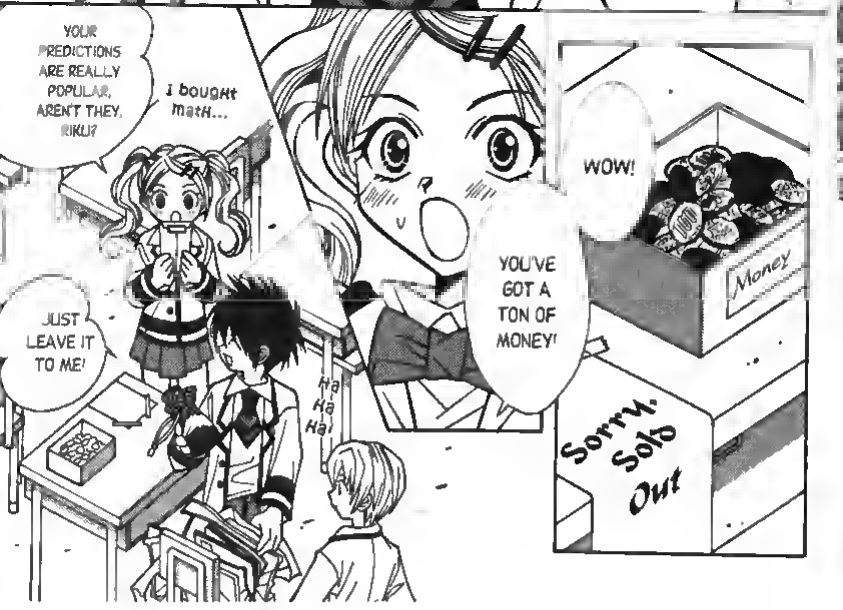
Chapter 1
Reunion, Sakura Blizzard
ひよこ
大福


KAW!
KAW!
KAW!
KAW!
KAW!
UH-OH.
FUTABA-CHAN'S BREAKFAST IS BEING STOLEN!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE FUTABA-CHAN'S ON THE MENU, TOO!
CROWS IN JAPAN SURE AREN'T PICKY ARE THEY?

WE..
..DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS EVEN ALIVE
.....
HMPH!
JERKS COMING ALL THIS WAY JUST TO BUG US ☆
COME ON, LET'S SET UP SHOP
SATSUKI
We must not give up!

WE'RE GOING TO SET UP SHOP RIGHT HERE TODAY TOO
..HIYOKOYA-SAN
YOU CERTAINLY ARE LIVELY
Take That!
DAIKOKUYA-SAN!
OH!
AND BY THE WAY...
LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST ON THIS SALES TRIP
IT MUST BE TOUGH! ♡
...YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING HERE IN JAPAN, WEREN'T YOU, HIYOKOYA-SAN?

FUKAGAWA PREDICTIONS HAVE A 75% ACCURACY RATE!
Math Predictions
PICK SOME UP AND PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE!


YOUR PREDICTIONS ARE REALLY POPULAR, AREN'T THEY, RIKU?
I bought math...
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
Ha Ha Ha!
WOW!
YOU'VE GOT A TON OF MONEY!
Money
Sorry, Sold Out

I'M SURE THAT SOMEWHERE IN THIS WORLD OF JAPAN...
...RIKU IS WAITING FOR US.
RIGHT-O.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE UP.
NOD

PREDICTIONS FOR MIDTERM EXAM QUESTIONS, 300 YEN PER SUBJECT!
Quit Pushing!
I want math!
gimme english!
3-1
HEY, NOW, DON'T PUSH

...WHILE HE WAS AT THE ORPHANAGE, HE WAS SUDDENLY AWAKENED TO HIS LIFE'S PURPOSE--TAKING CARE OF OTHERS
WHEN HE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
ACCORDING TO RIKU...
HE'S SO BUSY
REALLY!
THAT RIKU I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S A WORKAHOLIC OR JUST EAGER TO HELP
WELL..
IT'S NICE TO TAKE CARE OF OTHERS, BUT
...IT'S JUST NOT NORMAL FOR AN 8TH GRADE BOY LIKE HIM!
HUH?

NO.
LET'S USE THE MONEY TO HAVE A POST-TEST PARTY!
ALL RIGHT
WELL TRUST IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN BUSINESS.
I JUST KIND OF KNOW, IS ALL.
YOUR SIXTH SENSE.
...IS ALWAYS SPOT-ON!
THAT'S OUR DORM LEADER!
Always first to break the rules.
Establishment of the Stray Cat Coin Foundation
THIS MONEY..
OOOOH
WILL HELP FEED THE STRAY CATS I'M SECRETLY RAISING OUTSIDE THE DORMS!
Heeey!
CLASS REP!
THEY'RE HAVING A CLASS REP MEETING!
THAT'S A LOT OF CATS YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF RIKU.
WHAT KIND OF A DORM LEADER WOULD LET A LIVING THING STARVE ON HIS PREMISES?
That ridiculous sense of duty...
sense of duty
Wait for me Gosh, a bright tomorrow.
Rumors of the rain

Flea Market
AWESOME! THEY'RE HAVING A FLEA MARKET IN THE PARK!
RIKU! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN PICK UP SOME CUTE CHICKS THAT WORK THERE!
JUST AS I WAS SEEING THE MOON!
WHY, YOU!
REALLY? YOU'VE NEVER BEEN?
Then...
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AROUND!
over that way!
WOW, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A FLEA MARKET BEFORE.
they're holding it Saturday too.
I WON'T! SHEESH!
AND NO PICKING UP FLOOZIES!

?!
WHAT?! MY TYPE?!
WHY ASK ME THAT?!
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, MIZUNO?
NO...
I WAS JUST WONDERING...
His aura of purity sure attracts people.
I'm so sorry I'm lost
Brown map
Sense of duty
...IF THIS IS REALLY HOW YOU WANT TO SPEND YOUR YOUNGER YEARS
Acting all fluffy!
When you take care of a girlfriend.
you get something in return!
You are so clueless
BECAUSE, RIKU..
YOU SHOULD GET A GIRLFRIEND TO TAKE CARE OF! ☆
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?
Hmm
OH!
I WAS JUST THINKING I'D BUY A KIMONO THIS SUM--
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!!
HEY, LOOK!
HMM?
Hmm...
MAYBE SOMEONE WHO LOOKS GOOD IN A KIMONO?
good question.
MY TYPE, HUH?
TALK ABOUT OLD-FASHIONED!
Let's see
at least say you like miniskirts and big boobs!

Flea Market
DUDE I want to buy some vintage clothes from a hot chick!
Sure is packed!

OW! ∪
YOWCH! WHAT THE--?
MY LEFT EYE--!
UH
HUH?
IT STOPPED HURTING.
MAYBE JUST SOME DUST
O-ON MY WAY!
HEY! RIKU!
HURRY UP!

HUH?
S-SORRY!
OOPS!
ERK!
OH...
YOUR PARENTS ARE MISSING AND HERE I WAS SO THOUGHT-LESS..
HAVE ALL SORTS OF FUN—
IT'D BE NICE TO COME WITH YOUR FAMILY ♡
Materials?
IS THAT HOW YOU SEE IT?
IT'S LIKE I DON'T HAVE ANY MATERIALS TO BE SAD ABOUT!
HEH HEH.
NO BIG DEAL.
I CAN'T REMEMBER A LOT OF THINGS SO FOR ME, IT'S ALMOST REFRESHING TO IMAGINE IT
FIVE YEARS AGO...
What's your name, Little boy? U U
..WHEN I WAS WANDERING AROUND BY MYSELF AND THEY TOOK ME IN ALL I REMEMBERED...
WAS MY NAME, RIKU
I'D EVEN FORGOTTEN PROPER JAPANESE
U U Do you understand us? U U
AND THERE WASN'T A SINGLE NOTE FROM MY FAMILY

THERE ARE LOTS OF PRETTY DRESSES ♡
SEE MAI-CHAN?
Please have a look! ♡
DEPENDING ON HOW YOU BARGAIN, YOU CAN GET SOME PRETTY CHEAP STUFF
Like clothes
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'D BE GOOD AT THAT KIND OF THING, MIZUNO
.....
THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE HERE WITH THEIR FAMILIES!
I want to get a video game on the way home!
We sold something!
See?
Thanks very much!

LOOK! THEY'RE SELLING GOLDFISH!
OH, NO...
IT LOOKS A LITTLE SLEAZY...
YES, GOLDFISH!
WHO'S UP FOR SOME GOLDFISH?
HUH? GOLDFISH
Something tells me that's not a goldfish
THAT'S NO GOLDFISH.
IN THE MARKET FOR A GOLDFISH, SIR? ♡
HISSSS!
HISSSS!

I USED TO IMAGINE ALL KINDS OF THINGS
when I was little
I WONDER WHAT YOUR REAL FAMILY IS LIKE.
TALK ABOUT DRAMATIC.
LIKE, I WAS ABANDONED BECAUSE WE WERE REALLY POOR OR MY PARENTS WERE ALIENS
I just don't hope I was part of a crime
I'M NOT REALLY SAD AS I AM...
...SCARED.
IMAGES OF WHAT MY HOME WAS LIKE, WHAT MY FAMILY WAS LIKE...
BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING.
...I WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE
TO HAVE A FAMILY...
GOLDFISH FOR SALE!

?!
YOU CAN'T DO BUSINESS LIKE THAT!
...JAPA... NESE?
THESE GOLDFISH ARE ORGANIC, SO NO NEED TO WORRY
OUCH!
MY LEFT EYE'S ACTING UP AGAIN.
GIMME THAT!
TRANSLATE!
YOUR CRAPPY JAPANESE IS CAUSE FOR WORRY.
SNEESH!
!!

...AND YET YOU'RE HOLDING IT WITHOUT A PROBLEM.
EXCUSE ME YOU'RE ACTING LIKE IT'S AN ABOMINATION.
?
WHAT IS THIS THING?
IT'S GOT ARMS AND LEGS, AND IT ALMOST ATE THIS POOR KIO!
This thing is dangerous, so I'm going to put it in a bag, okay?
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT NOOOO DISCOUNTS!
I WOULDN'T TAKE IT IF IT WERE FREE.
Were you trying to catch this?
NOD
OF COURSE IT'S WRITTEN IN...
HUH?
WOW, RIKU!!
YOU COULD READ THAT?!
THAT BOOK...
Yamatoan ⇨ Japanese Book of Common Phrases
"YAMATOAN TO JAPANESE, BOOK OF COMMON PHRASES"..?
Is he a foreigner?

THEN WHY CAN I..?
THEN...
MY...
...LEFT... EYE?
IT'S NOT JAPANESE!
!!
WAAH?!
RIKU!
Where'd that light?
!
There's a flash over there!

WHY?! IT'S ALL IN JAPANESE--
LOOK A LITTLE...
CLOSER.
YOU'RE BEING WEIRD, RIKU!
NOBODY CAN READ THIS!
JUST A MINUTE!
STILL, WHAT'S "YAMATO-AN"?
!!
YOU--!
RUN!
LET ME SEE YOUR LEFT EYE FOR A SECOND!

RIKU?
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!!
I DON'T KNOW YOU PEOPLE!
OH MY
GTTT!
DAMN THAT SHI!! WHY'D HE HAVE TO RUN OFF AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
No cheating!
Before we go after him, we do Rock-Paper-Scissors to decide who watches the bags!
WAIT, RIKU!!
HM?

WHY DO YOU GOTTA MAKE EVERYTHING OUT TO BE A FIGHT?!
RIKU!! YOU'RE RIKU, AREN'T YOU?! IT'S ME, SATSUKI! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN THE LAST FIVE YEARS?!
LET GO!!
WE CAME TO GET YOU WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE STORE NOW!
RIKU...

MONSTERS!
OH NO!
UWAAAAHH!
WITH YOUR POWER..
...OUR SHOP'S BUSINESS WILL THRIVE!
NOW COME WITH US
WE KNOW WE KNOW
MASTER.
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
Boy, what a day.
..YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES
BOX ???
IF WE TRANSPORT THIS GUY TO YAMATO..
..WE'LL GET A REWARD!
ALL RIGHT!
YOU!
IF WE TAKE HIM BACK WITH US..
..for words
At a loss

WE'VE COME TO GET YOU, SO
HOW DOES HE KNOW ME?!
..DID HE.. KNOW MY NAME?
HOW..
YOU'RE IKKU, AREN'T YOU?!
IT'S ME, SATSUKI!!
WE SAW WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER
HUH?
HOW IS IT THAT I..
..UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE WAS SAYING?!
HEY YOU! KID!
YOU FEELING SICK OR SOMETHING?
THE ONE WITH THE MAGIC ABILITY THAT THE HIYOKOYA BROTHERS HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR
I SEE SO YOU MUST BE..
THAT HIYOKOYA BOY'S SPIRIT STONE GAVE OFF THAT LIGHT

!!
PUTABA.
GOOD LUCK.
ぴょん
くるりん
ぽぉぉ
!!!
!!
ぷぉぉぉん

gasp
YOU'RE PART OF THE HIYOKO-YA!
YOU--!
Stiff
HEY, YOU.
can't move
I'M SCAAAARED!
SOMEBODY CALL THE POLICE!
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE.
LET'S RUN AWAY TOGETHER
♥
ペタ
SKII, THAT PUNK!
IF YOU'D BEEN WATCHING FROM THE START, YOU COULDN'T HAVE BACKED US UP
Dear Satsuki,
I'm off to go rescue Riku. Make sure we have an exit!
Skii

YOU'RE BROTHERS ?!
And is he speaking Japanese?
YOU AGAIN!
SORRY FOR SCARING YOU AT THE FLEA MARKET..
WHEN MY LITTLE BROTHER'S CONFUSED, HE GETS A LITTLE ROUGH
YUP
THIS HERE'S SATSUKI.
AND I'M SHII.

BUT --
YOU'RE SPEAKING JAPANESE.
OF COURSE.
ARITHMETIC AND THE COUNTRY'S LANGUAGE ARE THE BASICS OF TRADE.
SATSUKI'S ABOUT THE ONLY ONE IN OUR SHOP WHO STILL...
..HAS TO RELY ON A PHRASE-BOOK
What are you two talking about?
SHOP?
Oh yeah, she one selling the goldfish (?) also...
WE BROTHERS RUN A SHOP TOGETHER.
HEY! ☆
YOU REALLY HAVE FORGOTTEN EVERY-THING.
..RIKU.

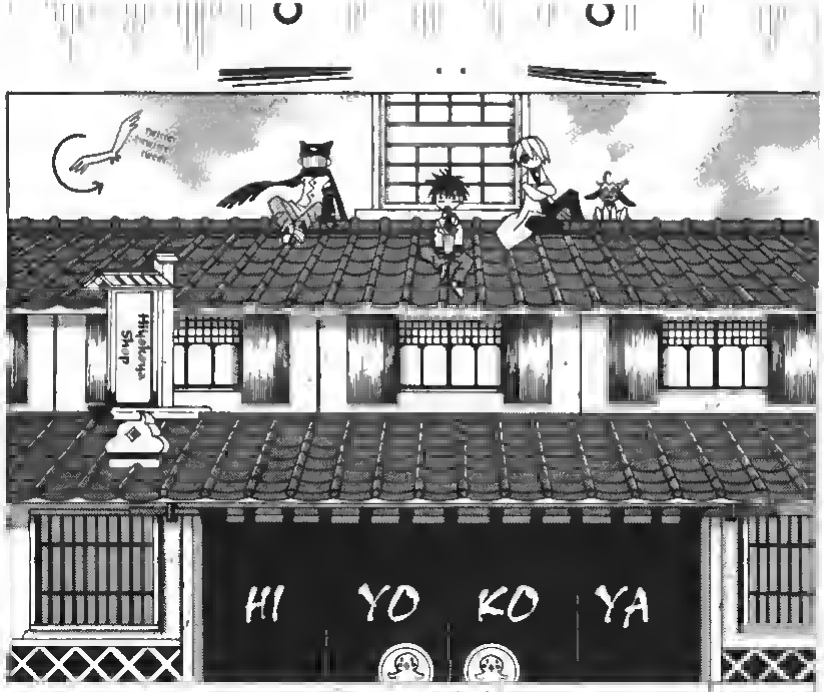
UH..
EXCUSE ME?
THANK YOU...
..FOR SAVING ME, BUT..
?!
RIKU!
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!
OH!
..I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D LET GO OF MY HAND
ガシ
Finish line
HUH?
WHAT IS--

THE HEAD OF HIYOKOYA WON'T TOLERATE ANY MORE UNWANTED INTERFERENCE.
TCH
SAKURA... PETALS?
DAIKOKUYA-SAN
WAH!
BECAUSE RIKU
IS THE PRECIOUS YOUNGEST BROTHER OF THE HIYOKOYA!

THERE YOU ARE, HIYOKOYA!!
?!
WHY YOU--
WE WERE NEGOTIATING WITH THAT BOY!
STOP! SATSUKI!
ACK!
NOT AGAIN!
RIKU! FOLLOW ME!
WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING TO YOU!!
FUTABA!!
On break
WE'RE GOING HOME!
OPEN THE DOOR!
going home?
A SLIDING PAPER DOOR? U U
what's that for?
imagine a fourth!

OWWW...!
I hit my head.
THAT WAS CRAZY! ☆
...THEIR WILL...
DRAGGING PEOPLE AGAINST
ゴッ☆ン☆
YOWCH!
大福帳

WH--
Youngest brother...
AHAAAAA!?



*Hiyokoya = Baby Bird Shop

★End of Chapter 1★

どさ
Here?
WE'RE BACK!!
MIO! HANA!
LOOK! WE FINALLY FOUND RIKU--
Mio☆
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH!
どさっ
WE'RE LATE BECAUSE WE BROUGHT RIKU WITH US ♡
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME WITH IN ...TSUAN?!
WORK'S BEEN PILING UP
Welcome back!

Chapter 2
The Streets of Genroku
Hiyokoya Store

TCH
WHO cares?
AND THIS IS YOUR FAMILY
...FOURTH SON, SHI...
THE SECOND SON, FUTABA
...FIFTH SON, SATSUKI—OH, HE'S THE SAME AGE AS YOU RIKU
YOUR COUSIN, KONOHANA...
.. AND THE SIXTH AND YOUNGEST SON—YOU.
.....

THERE'S no WAY!
THIS DOESN'T FEEL REAL!
WELCOME HOME RIKU!
An older brother the same age?
Younger than the rabbit?
Another rabbit?
Rabbit CHILD?
I DON'T GET IT!!

On break
WELCOME BACK .
..RIKU
EH...?
Him
WHAT
Boop Boop
POP
Live Soup Bubbles Special price 24 yen
BUT HE'S A CAT!
I'M THE HEAD CLERK MIO ..
..YOUR FATHER'S COUSIN
Ears
Tail
Bell
TWAP
"Book on table reads "Account Book"
WE MEMBERS OF THE HINA FAMILY RUN ALL OF THE SHOP'S AFFAIRS
IT'S BEEN A GENERAL STORE HERE IN GENROKU FOR THREE GENERATIONS
THIS IS YOUR HOME, HIYOKOYA.

THAT SLIDING DOOR IS AN ADVANCED SPELL THAT ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE, EVEN OF THE USA-MIMI CLAN, CAN USE!
We use it all the time for outside errands
WHAT A CHEAP MODE OF TRANSPORTATION!
NO WAY!
SO YOU MEAN THAT SIMPLE SLIDING DOOR BACK THERE WAS..

WHERE IS ICHIYA-NII?
MAKING NEGOTIATIONS WITH A RESTAURANT
ANYWAY SATSUKI!
GO DELIVER THE MERCHANDISE!
...THERE IS A WAY BACK, RIGHT?
THE YOUNG MASTER WILL BE BACK THIS EVENING
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT THEN.
HUH
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS...
...THIS MIGHT BE ANOTHER WORLD BUT...
WHAAT?!
I haven't even had lunch yet! T_T
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
Yippee!
CAN I HELP WITH THE DELIVERIES?
OH!
Burning fires to HELL

* -nii ending implies an older brother

GENROKU IS THE CAPITAL IN THE CENTER OF YAMATO.
YAMATO IS THIS WORLD
Yamato
NORTH
SOUTH
Genroku
Ocean
FLAP
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING, HAVEN'T YOU?
"YAMATO" AND "GENROKU"?! I WENT THROUGH A WEIRD SLIDING DOOR, AND NEXT THING I KNOW...
AND WHERE IS THIS, ANYWAY?!
Nance
*Usa-mimi = Rabbit-eared
...SOME DECADES AGO, IT BECAME POSSIBLE TO COME AND GO TO THE OTHER WORLD--"JAPAN"
ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCH AND MAGIC SPELLS DONE BY THE USA-MIMI...
I SUPPOSE TO YOU, YAMATO WOULD BE THE "OTHER WORLD"
ER...
ガーん
OTHER WORLD?!

WHat?!
LOOK AFTER ME?!
NOW, NOW
I'LL LOOK AFTER RIKU.
YOU'LL MEET LOTS OF PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW..
YOU CAN'T!!
IT'S DANGEROUS WALKING AROUND TOWN!!
You'll get lost again!
THESE BAGS ARE HEAVY!
I MEAN...
IT WOULD BE HARD FOR HIM TO CARRY IT ALL BY HIMSELF RIGHT?
Wonder's the sudden appetite come from)
I'M BEING TREATED LIKE A LITTLE KID
SOME THING TELLS ME..
TIME TO GET A MOVE ON!
BY THE WAY IS THIS REALLY A BEEF BOWL?
THAT picture doesn't look like any cow I know of
Hand
COME ON, RIKU.

THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE.
AND THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF SHOPS IT'S A LIVELY CITY
IT'S A FAKE EDO.
WHY ARE YOU SO SURPRISED?
HEY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU OFFERED TO HELP.
STILL
THE CENTER OF YAMATO, THE CAPITAL, GENROKU...

ICHIYA-NII SHARES THE SAME MOTHER AS YOU.
HE'S THE OLDEST AND THE HEAD OF HIYOKOYA.
SEEMS LIKE SUCH A COMPLEX FAMILY WOULD BE WORTH REMEMBERING.
Story Books
AW, MAN
IT'S NO USE
I THOUGHT SEEING THE TOWN WOULD TRIGGER MY MEMORY
NOTHING'S COMING

IS HE ASKING FOR HANDOUTS?
I don't have any money
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TREATING ME TO THE BEEF BOWL.
I didn't mean that
I'M GIVING YOU MY HAND TO HOLD
BECAUSE YOU TEND TO TRIP AND GET LOST A LOT ☆
CUT IT OUT!!
JUST BECAUSE I GOT SEPARATED FROM YOU WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?!
I'M FIFTEEN NOW!
THIS PLACE MAY BE STRANGE TO ME, BUT EVEN SO!
I KNOW HOW OLD YOU ARE!
I'M FIFTEEN TOO! DON'T BRAG
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT YOU...
AREN'T MY TWIN ARE YOU?
NO
WE'RE HALF-BROTHERS

I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE A TUTOR AND COULD COME TO SCHOOL, RIKU
I'M GOING TO GO PLAY WITH MY FRIENDS NOW!
IS SCHOOL OUT SATSUKI-CHAN?
YUP
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE UP RIKU?
YEAH... BUT...
"SPECIAL"?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS STILL HAPPENS THESE DAYS!
UGH!
I GUESS YOU WERE BASICALLY A SHELTERED SON
EH?
ER... ∪
MEOW!
THAT'S THE DEAL, SO...
..WHEN YOU'RE WALKING AROUND TOWN--
TAP

WELL, YOU'RE SPEAKING YAMATOAN WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.
FOV extension.
AM I REALLY FROM THIS PLACE?
BESIDES...
YOU ALMOST NEVER LEFT THE SHOP, RIKU.
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TOO MANY MEMORIES OF THE TOWN, ANYWAY
EH?
RIKU..
YOU WERE KIND OF..
"SPECIAL," I GUESS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WAS I SICK OR SOMETHING?
Let's see...
WELL.. YOU DID HAVE WEAK HEALTH, BUT ALSO... HOW DO YOU SAY IT...
that is--

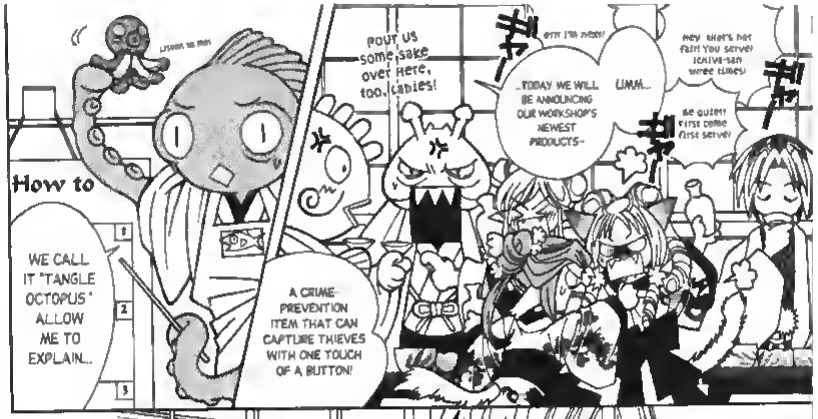
<Today's Reservations>
Kaisen Workshop
New Product
Introductory Meeting
TCH!
OF ALL THE TIMES--!
?
THESE GUYS ARE IN THE SAME BUSINESS ALWAYS UP FOR A FIGHT TOO
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE.
MASTER HIYOKOYA?
THANK YOU.

WHOA.
BE ON YOUR... guard
EHEH!
WHAT KIND OF GOODS WERE WE JUST DEALING WITH?!
AFTER HIM, RIKU!!
OOPS, SORREOW!
--BE ON YOUR GUARD
THIS IS TERRIBLE! THAT'S THE GIANT BAGWORM WE WERE TAKING TO MINOYA!!
ARE YOU IN A HURRY?
ECHIGO-YA!!
DOOPH!
serves you right!
YO, HIYOKOYA.
WAAAH!
OUT OF THE WAY!

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
YES.
BUT OUR SHOP MUST CHECK THE USEFULNESS OF THEM IT FIRST
OOH! HIYOKOYA-SAN! ♡
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OUR NEW PRODUCT?

Mm master?
EH?

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHICH WAY THE THIEF WENT?
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME HERE!
THIS WAY, SA'SUK!!!
RIKU, HOLD IT!


How to
WE CALL IT "TANGLE OCTOPUS" ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN...
A CRIME-PREVENTION ITEM THAT CAN CAPTURE THIEVES WITH ONE TOUCH OF A BUTTON!
POUR US some sake over here, too, ladies!
...TODAY WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING OUR WORKSHOP'S NEWEST PRODUCTS~
UMM...
Hey that's not fair! You served Ichiya-san three times!
Be quiet! First come first served!

MASTER?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
SHUT UP! GET OUT OF MY WAY!!
COME ON!
RIKU!!

WATCH OUT!
NO!
RIKU!
HEY, YOU!!
WOW
GIVE US BACK OUR PACKAGE!!
RIKU!
UPH!
RI--

YOU'RE RIGHT
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING...
!
I WONDER IF HE'S AROUND THERE
HE WENT THIS WAY... I THINK.
RIKU!?
YOUR EYE--
MY EYE? WHAT ABOUT IT?
?
AH!
AAAAAH!
MEOW!?

71
THAT...
ICHIYA-NIICHAN?!
Hold Here
Hold Here
...IS PRECIOUS HIYOKOYA MERCHANDISE

RIKU! YOU'RE HURT!!
I'M FINE. I'M FINE. IT'S JUST A SCRATCH
Almost had me there.
Damn! my U Jacket!
YOU HAVE TO HURRY AFTER HIM!
SATSUKI LOOK!
B-BUT..
YOU'RE HURT..
I TOLD YOU I'M FINE!
NOW GO!
RIKU?
SATSUKI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU'RE GOING BACK TO JAPAN, RIKU-CHAN?!
EEEEH?!
AND NEXT YEAR, I'M GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL! I HAVE MY OWN PLANS YOU KNOW! ☆
And I have to feed the cats!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA STAY HERE?!
WAIT SEC!
HOW COULD I?! I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF EXAMS!
Well
WHEN MY SCHEDULE OPENS UP...
I'LL WORK HERE PART-TIME
YOU CAN MAKE THE DOOR TO JAPAN AGAIN, RIGHT FUTABA?
I can, b-b-but.

WOW, COOL!
IS THAT A NEW PRODUCT?
WE'LL DEFINITELY BUY THIS ONE.
That's rather useful.
RIKU.
HUH?
What is wrong with you people?! And this world?!
WHAT THE HECK?!
WELCOME BACK
YOU'VE GROWN INTO A FINE YOUNG MAN.
HOW DO YOU PUT THIS AWAY?
Poke Poke
Oh good it's still alive
YOU'RE RIKU, AREN'T YOU?

THE HIYOKOYA BROTHERS FROM A GENERAL STORE IN ANOTHER WORLD, YAMATO.
I HAD NO MEMORIES WHEN MY LONG-LOST RELATIVES APPEARED BEFORE ME.
Science Room
APPARENTLY I, RIKU FUKAGAWA, AM THEIR YOUNGEST BROTHER, BUT...
...IT DOESN'T SEEM REAL AT ALL.
...SUDDENLY...
ZOOONE
TEACHER! RIKU'S MAKING SOMETHING WEIRD!
Riku's become a complete klutz!
Yuka Sawai

I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU STOPPED
PLUS I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE ALL SO OVERPROTECTIVE AND TREAT ME LIKE I'M GOING TO BREAK.
like this.

HERE!
SO I'D LIKE TO BE PAID FOR TODAY'S WORK. ♡
Sitting Cat Care Maintenance
HE'S BECOME HARD TO HANDLE.
This isn't the time to act calm.
HE'S BECOME A STRONG BOY
...I BECAME AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HIYOKOYA GENERAL STORE IN ANOTHER WORLD
SO...
I NEED IT IN JAPANESE YEN!
DON'T PUSH IT, PART-TIMER!
Hiyokoya Store

★End of Chapter 2★

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY, RIKU ☆
AND YOU LEFT THE FLEA MARKET ALONE.
REALLY?
EVER SINCE THE FLEA MARKET LAST WEEK, YOU'VE BEEN KINDA OUT OF IT ☆
NO... NOTHING. I'M FINE. ☆
SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU, MIZUNO.
EH?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN, RIKU?
ECHO
maybe
I THOUGHT YOU'D PICKED UP A GIRL... THAT'S WHY YOU GAVE MIZUNO THE SLIP AND RAN AW—
BUMP
RIKU...
.....
IF I TOLD THEM ABOUT OTHER WORLDS...
...THEY'D THINK I WAS INSANE!

Chapter 3
I'll Go Get You

THAT'S WHAT I PROMISED...
...BUT I WONDER IF THEY'LL REALLY COME GET ME.
When are you starting on the report card, Riku?
RIKU!
OUR NEXT CLASS IS STARTING! LET'S GO!
OH, RIGHT.
COMING
カーッ
カァカァカァカァカァ
Riku, where are you??

RIKU.
WHEN WILL YOU BE COMING BACK TO WORK?
HUH?
ICHIYA... SAN?
UM, WELL... I CAN COME NEXT SATURDAY... MAYBE...
IN A WEEK, HUH?
WELL, UNTIL THEN, TAKE THIS TO EAT
Onii-chan is disappointed...
Hello. I can button my own jacket.
TUG
THAT'S "ICHIYA-NIISAN."
Correction
AS OF TODAY, IT'S BEEN ONE WEEK.
WELL, THEN, WE'LL COME GET YOU IN A WEEK
SIP

IS THIS WHAT THEY MEANT BY "PICK ME UP"?
KAW! KAW! KAW!
IT COULDN'T BE
WHERE'RE YOU GOING, RIKU?
RIKU!!
WHAA?!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, RIKU!!

FLAP
?
A MURDER OF CROWS AT SCHOOL?
OH, MY!
KAW! KAW!
TEAR MARKS
IS THIS FOR REAL ?!
Riku, I've come to pick you up.
HM?
EAT THE RABBIT!
If you don't cut it out, I'll crush you with magic!!
No time for it...
So it's come to this.

WHY DO THESE THINGS HAPPEN?!
WH—
RIKU?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SORRY GUYS...
I'M LEAVING A BIT EARLY...
RIKU?!
AND HOW IS THIS FUTABA?!
WHEN I'M WITH YOU, RIKU...
...THE CROWS STAY AWAY...
YOU GOT TALL JUST LIKE THAT
FUTABA.
POOF
There's a time limit on it, though...
POOF
FLASH
RED

NOD NOD
Futaba
NO WAY!!
Is he a pervert?
WHO ARE YOU?!
THIS PLACE IS FULL OF PEOPLE, AND THEY'RE ALL WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES!
AND EVEN WHEN I CHANGE SHAPE, THE CROWS PECK AT ME!!
Look, he's crying
A-HE HUGGED RIKU
JUST A MINUTE! YOU IN THE COSTUME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO RIKU?
I'LL CALL A TEACHER!
BING BONG
Uh-oh
time for class.
MIZUNO!
CHILL.
You creep!
WHA?
HUH?

Hiyokoya Store
OF COURSE PEOPLE ARE GONNA MESS WITH IT!!
IF YOU LEAVE IT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
It's covered in graffiti!
WELL, GOOD I'M PROUD OF YOU.
Fortunately, I made sure to lock it.
Mm-hm!
CLICK
5

IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S A WIZARD
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET ALONG WITH A "BROTHER" LIKE THIS?
A time limit
?
THE MAGICAL "USA-MIMI CLAN"
Stupid
Tanaka was here!
I want a girlfriend!
I PUT A SLIDING DOOR ON THE ROOF THIS MORNING!
LET'S GO, RIKU!
ON THE ROOF?!

EHEH!
I MADE YOUR FAVORITES FOR LUNCH RIKU-CHAN! ICHIYA-SAMA TOLD ME WHAT THEY ARE.
TA-DAAA! IT'S ODEN! ♡
COME WITH ME.
RIKU-CHAN, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY! ♡
AH!
KO-
KONO-HANA?
same sort of expression of friendship...
Here, you can have my eyeball pouch!
UM, I'M NOT ALL THAT HUNGRY, SO...
...MAYBE LATER
eyes meet
THIS USED TO BE MY FAVORITE... FIVE YEARS AGO!
Eat up!
Following Right Along

IMPATIENTLY WAITING MODE!!
CAN YOU STAY THE NIGHT..
RIKU?
WELCOME BACK...
RIKU.
5 sen
Acorns
WE'VE BEEN WAITING
RIKU!
RIKU-CHAN, WELCOME!!
OOH!
PRES
SURE
I...
I'm back...?
Give them a cheerful greeting!

YOU HAVE A GUEST, YOUNG MASTER! GET RID OF THE TAILOR, GET TO THE GUEST ROOM, AND START TALKING BUSINESS!
SATSUKI AND KONOHANA, GO MAKE DELIVERIES! NOW!!
HELLO THERE.
CHIGIRI
GOOD GRIEF.
No One Escapes Mio.
YOU TOO, FUTABA.
HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU SPEND GETTING THE PART-TIMER?
QUIT PLAYING AROUND WITH THE PART-TIMER!
YOU'VE WASTED
TWO WHOLE PAGES!
GET TO WORK, DAMMIT!!
YOU'RE SO LOUD

RATTLE
HI!
TODAY...
...WE CALLED A TAILOR FOR YOU, RIKU
WELL, THEN
COME THIS WAY.
WHAAT?!
YOU CAN HAVE ANY CLOTHES MADE THAT YOU WANT
SEE?

Aww, it's sleeping.
WHY DO THEY CLOSE UP LIVE CREATURES IN DRAWERS?
CAN YOU CARRY IT FUTABA?
YOU TAKE CARE OF THE LOWER LEVELS!
Sniff
Sniff
Yaawn
LOOKS LIKE IT U CAN EAT U U RABBITS, TOO! U
NUMBER 11 HAS AN INSECT-EATING PLANT IN IT, SO BE CAREFUL.
OH.
?
DO YOU HAVE THAT PLANT, TOO?

THAT WAS UNCOOL
HEY EASY!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK LIKE THAT...
...DO IT AFTER YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING USEFUL FOR THE SHOP WITHOUT USING MAGIC!
YOU COULD HAVE JUST USED MAGIC TO PRESSURE ALL THE STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL TO TELL YOU WHERE RIKU WAS
Magic mustn't be used that way!
SHEESH! YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT
WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE MAGICAL POWERS?
FUTABA HAS TO BE ABLE TO WORK NORMALLY, WITHOUT MAGIC, RIGHT?!
Riku...
STOP IT!
THAT'S A TERRIBLE THING TO SAY!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
KUMPH!
That hurt!
LET'S SHOW HIM, FUTABA!
I NEED A NUMBER 6 AND A NUMBER 11, PRONTO!
WE'VE GOT AN ORDER!

TIME TO THROW IN THE TOWEL!
More like ring the bell!
YES..
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE NEAR-SIGHTED?
FUTA-BA.
IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE MAGIC POWERS..
..YOU'D HAVE BEEN FIRED BY NOW

HAVE YOU SEEN FUTABA?
Closed for the day

I'LL DO MY BEST!
I...
This outfit's worse.
I'm good!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT FUTABA!
SLIP
ACK!
UH-OH
CRACK
OH NO!! I BROKE MY GLASSES!
WAAAH!
FUTABA!
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID DISASTER IN YOUR GROWN-UP SIZE!
TRY IT!
Yeah!

I FOUND YOU.
MIND IF I HAVE A SEAT?
You were looking for me?
FUTABA!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR FUTABA FOR A WHILE...
OW!
WHAT'S WRONG?
NO.
open hair
I SEE...
ズキ。。
OW!
WE'RE HAVING ODEN FOR DINNER, TOO, RIKU-CHAN!
RIKU! WANNA HIT THE BATHHOUSE?
UGH...
NOPE...
MAYBE HE'S OUT ON A WALK OR SOMETHING.
.....

NOT REALLY
You're such a nice boy, Riku!!
I'M NOT THAT NICE!!
.....
I appreciate the thought, but don't you worry!
Fist
Heh
I THINK THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT MAKES FUTABA
..STRONG.
I CAN COME TO YAMATO..
..THANKS TO YOU FUTABA
IT MAY NOT BE SO BAD TO HAVE A BROTHER LIKE THIS, AFTER ALL..

MAYBE I'VE GOTTEN BETTER AT FINDING THINGS SINCE I CAME TO YAMATO
IT'S LIKE FUTABA'S FEELINGS, HIS PAIN, WERE CONVEYED TO ME.
I JUST CONCENTRATED ON YOU. THE ONE I WANTED TO FIND
AND THEN..
FUTABU, LISTEN
NEXT TIME.. , YOU COME TO GET ME..
..I'LL FIND A PLACE WHERE THERE AREN'T ANY CROWS SO YOU WON'T BE BOTHERED..
..AND I'LL WAIT THERE FOR YOU
BUT..
SURE HE'S AWKWARD WITH A LOT OF THINGS..

I KNOW
THANK YOU, RIKU
AH...
NO, IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT YOUR MAGIC
HUH?
I MEAN...
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, RIKU...
...I'LL GO THERE TO GET YOU.
MY PAY?!
...SINCE YOU FAILED TO FIND WORK FOR FUTABA TODAY YOUR PAY IS NOTHING!
AND SO...
SHOULD WE HEAD BACK TO THE SHOP?
Funny it's turned out this way...

★ End of Chapter 3 ★

ART AUCTIO
TODAY IS THE ART AUCTION THAT'S HELD EVERY YEAR IN GENROKU.
LOTS OF STORES COME TO STOCK UP ON ART.
MEANING THAT HIYO-KO-YA...
...COMES TOO. ☆
HEEEY...
SHII2

Chapter 4
The Unwelcoming Cat

WHA-?
WHAT A LOUD VOICE
WHO WAS THAT?!
WHAT'S WRONG RIKU?
THAT'S A TERRIBLE THING TO SAY
THIS IS A COLLECTION OF FIRST CLASS WORKS.
HUH?
ESPECIALLY...
..THINGS LIKE THAT "WELCOMING CAT" OVER THERE.
IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF!!
WAAAAH?!

Exhibit List
ICHIYA-NII IS BUSY...
..AND MIO DOESN'T LEAVE THE SHOP.
What is this thing?
..MORE IN ICHIYA-SAN'S OR MIO'S DEPARTMENT?
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME WITH YOU?
Senior
YEAH?
RIKU?
ISN'T THIS KIND OF THING...
THERE MIGHT BE SOME ART YOU UNDERSTAND JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU.
BESIDES...
CAN YOU REALLY EVEN...
...CALL THIS "ART"?
Lucky Day
ME?

A TALKING DECORATION! HOW COOL!
HE'S SURE GOT A MOUTH ON HIM, THOUGH ☆
HA HA!
WHAAA?
A WELCOMING CAT MADE OF HOLY-SPIRIT STONE!
Reserved for
Echi-goya
C'MERE A SEC!
RIKU!
IT WAS TALKING THAT WHOLE TIME...
?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
DON'T SAY SUCH WEIRD THINGS
LOOK. THERE'S NO WAY A WELCOMING CAT COULD TALK.
??
WHAT IS IT SHI!?

SPLENDID!
IT'S THE HOTTEST ITEM HERE TODAY!
A WELCOMING CAT MADE OF HOLY-SPIRIT STONE! ♡♡
越後屋
WE RARELY SEE WORKS MADE OF HOLY-SPIRIT STONE!!
YOU CAN'T JUST DECIDE I'M YOURS, IDIOT!!
Bwa Ha Ha!
WE, ECHIGOYA, THE LARGEST STORE IN THE CAPITAL, WILL BE BUYING THIS ITEM!! ♡
Reserved for
Echi-goya
Hey! Not so fast.
EH?!
WOW! ♡
FIND IT, QUICKLY!
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT MY PRECIOUS YOU-KNOW-WHAT IS MISSING?!
I GET CARRIED AROUND SO ROUGHLY, DANG IT!
THAT MAKES ME MAD!!

THEY DIDN'T HAVE RESPECT FOR THE GODS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, AND IT PISSED ME OFF! I TAUGHT THEM A LESSON!
HEH HEH HEH HEH
SEE? JUST NOW?
HE SAID SOMETHING NASTY
RIDICULOUS!
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha!
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THEY WERE QUARRYING THE HOLY SPIRIT STONE, THREE PEOPLE WERE INJURED BY FALLING ROCKS
AND WHEN IT WAS BEING CARVED THE WORKSHOP WAS DESTROYED IN AN EARTH QUAKE.
RI—
IT WAS DIVINE PUNISHMENT.
WELL, THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS...
HEY, KID!
YOU CAN HEAR ME, CAN'T YOU?
!!
ビキ!

MY LEFT EYE
RIKU?!
THROB
WHA?
THROB
ぽぽ
WHOa?!
WHAT'S WRONG?
IS HE HURT?
I SEE. ☆
HEY
BUT ECHIGOYA-SAN..
THIS WELCOMING CAT HAS A VARIED HISTORY
THOSE MIYOKOYA FREAKS—
GOOD GRIEF THEY'RE MORONIC.
A TALKING WELCOMING CAT..
WEAR THIS ON YOUR HEAD FOR A WHILE, OKAY? ♡
?
?
WHAT?

"See you," he says
SORRY! SEE YOU!
GOTTA GO! ☆
WE'RE GOING.
SO SORRY
WHAT?!
ALL RIGHT! JUST YOU WATCH!
THEY'RE ALL SO UNCOUTH!!
I wonder why?
Sure is hot

RIKU?
COME OUT... OF THE STONE?
I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS STONE FOR A BIT--
YOU CAN HELP ME. I NEED TO FIND SOMETHING.
YES, YOU.
THERE AREN'T MANY WHO CAN HEAR ME LIKE YOU CAN.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TOUCH YOU?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
C'mere.
JUST COME OVER HERE AND TOUCH ME.
ALL RIGHT
RIKU-CHAN!
EXCUSE ME, SIR...
PLEASE TAKE CARE NOT TO TOUCH THE ARTWORK. ☆

IT'S GOT A BELL. I WONDER IF IT BELONGS TO SOMEONE.
...panka comp.
NO...
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE
Quit pawing around and eat your dumplings
THAT OTHER CAT WAS KIND OF ALIVE TOO, BUT...
?
ALIVE?
Excuse me?
LIVE CATS REALLY ARE BETTER
HEY, SHII
WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY "HOLY SPIRIT STONE"?
YOU'RE ASKING THAT NOW?
WELL... IT'S A TYPE OF PRECIOUS STONE
YOU MIGHT SAY
IT'S A MAGIC STONE.

THE AUCTION HAS STARTED EVERYONE ELSE FROM THE OTHER STORES IS THERE.
IT'S FINE.
Sorry for the wait.
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE HERE, HIYOKOYA-SAN?
BESIDES, RIKU IS...
...MORE FASCINATED BY LIVING CATS, AS YOU CAN SEE.
HOO HOO!
WE SAW WHAT THERE WAS TO SEE.
IS IT FROM AROUND HERE?
OH! ♡
A KITTEN?
IT WAS IN FRONT OF YOUR SHOP

THE AUCTION HALL!
?!
uction
IT'S IN TROUBLE!!
THE GROUND'S RUMBLING...
AN EARTHQUAKE?!
BUT
...WHY IS THE AUCTION HALL THE ONLY PLACE SHAKING?
?

...COULD BE ANY KIND OF SPIRIT APPARENTLY ☆
ALTHOUGH THE SPIRITS LIVING IN THEM...
...HOLY SPIRITS LIVE INSIDE THE STONE
LEGEND HAS IT...
I'LL HEAD BACK AFTER I LOOK FOR THE KITTEN'S OWNER
OH.
WELL THEN...
SHOULD WE GO BACK TO HIYOKOYA NOW?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
?!
WHAT IS IT, LITTLE GUY?
!

LITTLE GUY!
IT PISSED ME OFF, SO I TAUGHT THEM A LESSON!
IF YOU'RE NOT CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS..
...MAYBE I'LL CAUSE A BIDDING WAR!
EARTHQUAKE!
EARTHQUAKE!
I DON'T WANT TO BE OWNED BY THE LIKES OF YOU!!!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN INSIDE?
HEY!
HIYO-KOYA-SAN!
IT'S DANGEROUS IN THERE!
Exit
NO!
LITTLE GUY!
!!KU!?
ヒョー
WHOA
WATCH OUT!
THE MOMENT ECHIGOYA-SAN...
...PLACED THE WINNING BID ON THAT WELCOMING CAT, THE EARTHQUAKE...
WHEN THEY QUARRIED THE STONE, BOULDERS FELL...
THE WORKSHOP WAS DESTROYED.
LITTLE GUY!
I-I DON'T KNOW! ;;
THE "HOLY-SPIRIT STONE" WELCOMING CAT

RIKU! WHERE ARE YOU?!
COME BACK!
LEND YOU A HAND?
THAT'S RIGHT
GET ME OUT OF THIS STONE.
IF ANYONE CAN DO IT, YOU CAN, KID.
HI--
HIYOKOYA-SAN?
WHAT ARE--
WH--
?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CONCENTRATE YOUR FEELINGS AND TOUCH THE STONE.
DID YOU DO THIS?
WELCOM-ING CAT
D'OH!
H-HEY KID YOU'RE BACK.
HUFF..
I'LL CRUSH YOU ALONG WITH THIS BUILDING!
!
REAL-LY?
ALL RIGHT THEN
THEN THIS TIME YOU'LL LEND ME A HAND AND HELP ME FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR
SO STOP DOING THIS!
DON'T DESTROY THINGS EVERY TIME YOU'RE UPSET
IF YOU WANT TO TALK, I'LL LISTEN!
?!

GIVE IT A TRY, RIKU.
THE HOLY-SPIRIT STONE! IT'S-
IT CAN'T BE!
THIS BOY IS
!!

...THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE...
I FEEL LIKE...
WHAT THE...?
UGH...!
RIKU.
YOUR BIG BROTHERS ARE WITH YOU
IT'S ALL RIGHT

IT CAME OFF WHEN I WAS BEING BROUGHT HERE.
YOU WERE LOOKING FOR...
MEOW~♡
MY TAIL! ♡
ちょん
STICK ♡
WHEN ABOUT THE FESTIVAL?
NM?
HMPH!
YOU FOUND HIM FOR ME, KID! I LIKE YOU!!
ALL RIGHT! IT'S DECIDED!!
WHAT IS?
HEH?

HUH?
EH..?
MEOW!
HUH? WHAT WAS I JUST--
WHAT?! INTERFERENCE--
HUH?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! I WAS SO WORRIED!!
DAWAAH?!
It stretched!
IT'S YOU!
RIKU, STOP!!

RIKU FUKAGAWA RETURNS TO JAPAN AFTER STAYING UP ALL NIGHT
RA
CE
Yawn
Don't sleep in class!
Take care
Hi
Store
RIKU
THANK YOU FOR WORKING THE NIGHT SHIFT ♡
EARLY MORNING IN THE CAPITAL OF THE OTHER WORLD, GENROKU
WELL, I'M... OFF--
this feels kind of weird...
SHIPPO-CHAN?!
ACK!
NYA! ♡

Hiyokoya Store
I'm so ashamed...
Don't mind me everyone
AND ECHIGOYA-SAN SAID HE DIDN'T WANT A THING LIKE THIS ANYMORE
SO BASICALLY...
..HE SAID THAT, BY ALL MEANS HE WANTED TO COME HERE TO HIYOKOYA.
SHII! I THOUGHT ALL YOU WERE GOING TO DO WAS SHOW RIKU THE HOLY-SPIRIT STONE!
SORRY ♡
?
OOPS
What's going on, SHII?!
SHII chan You messed up big time!
Amount of Echigoya's winning bid
I GUESS WE'LL PAY IN INSTALLMENTS
Jewelé
Venerable Welcoming Cat
..HIYOKOYA GAINED A NEW MEMBER... I GUESS?
How that SHIPPO's got a taste of freedom
GYAAH ♡
YOU WILL NEVER BE PAID AGAIN!!
- He comes off to play
AND SO...
End of Chapter

HOLY-SPIRIT STONE-WELCOMING CAT
THIS PART
IT'S PART OF AN EXPENSIVE HOLY-SPIRIT STONE!
IT'LL COME BACK WHEN IT GETS HUNGRY
THAT'S NOT JUST A CAT!

Konohana's Japan Debut

LEAVE THIS TO KONOHANA! ♡
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT HEAVY BAG?!
WAIT, KONO-HANA!!
HEY!
I'LL FIND SHIPPO-CHAN! COME GET ME LATER, OKAY? ♡

SATSU-KI
YOU GO.
FUTABA, SHII, SATSUKI ONE OF YOU GO FIND IT!
It may be one tail, but
If it's damaged, it would be a great loss.
I'm not good with cats.
HOLD IT!!
I THINK NOT. YOUR HEAD ISN'T REALLY ON THE MISSION, IS IT
The magic will wear off soon.
SHIPPO
THERE'S NO HELPING IT
I'LL GO AND WHILE I'M THERE, I'LL LOOK IN ON RIKU'S CLASSES
Hana, where are you going?

I WAS UP UNTIL TWO IN THE MORNING COUNTING LIVE SOAP BUBBLES
six hundred eighty-one
no sleeping
YOU SEEM A LITTLE SLEEPY
HUH?
RIKU! GOOD MORNING! ♡
HEY MIZUNO...
NYUM
AH!
HEH?
OH NOTHING!
MRAW
"MEAW"?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MEOW! ♡
SHIPPOH
ZIP

JAPAN
YAWN!
IF I'M GONNA WORK THE NIGHT SHIFT.
..YOU COULD AT LEAST SLIDE ME SOME EXTRA CASH. ☆

I WAS RIGHT TO COME TO THE SCHOOL..
KONO-HANA?!
I KNEW YOU WERE WITH RIKU-CHAN ♡
I SEE. SO YOU CAME TO FIND HIM.
YOU EVEN BROUGHT A CAT-TOY
THANKS TO YOU..
300 YEN
YOU'RE A LIFESAVER ☆

WH-WHAT ?!
IT'S A CAT!
HEY! SHIPPO-CHAN!
W WAIT A SECOND, EVERY-ONE!
I'LL CATCH HIM!
LOOK! A TOY MOUSE!!

THROUGH THE BUSINESS THAT I DO HERE, EVERYONE WILL FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I'M FULLY QUALIFIED AS A BUSINESSPERSON.
Konohana?
I'VE BEEN AN APPRENTICE AT HIYOKOYA...
...FOR THREE YEARS NOW
WELCOME!
Hiyokoya Official Tour
HOLD IT!
FULLY QUALIFIED? KONOHANA, HOW OLD ARE YOU?
Why are you pulling on me?
I'M TEN YEARS OLD!
RIKU WHAT ABOUT CLASS?
BEING DRESSED LIKE THAT HERE IS TOO SUSPICIOUS
FIRST THINGS FIRST.
That rep mood is awful!
Let go! I want to sell things!

KONO-HANA...
WHAT DID YOU REALLY COME HERE FOR?
BUSINESS!
Thanks for your business!
THAT'S THE SPECIAL PRICE, INCLUDING THE FEE FOR TAKING CARE OF THINGS HERE.
WHO'S THAT SMALL GIRL?
Rabbit cosplay?
FLAP
RIKU SEEMS AWFULLY FRIENDLY WITH HER

WOW.
SHE HID HER RABBIT EARS WELL..
THANK YOU, RIKU-CHAN
Riku's hand-me-down sweater and a ribbon he bought at the shop.
IT'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT?!
HUH?
RABBIT EARS ?!
KONOHANA!
BY ANY CHANCE, ARE YOU FROM THE RABBIT-EAR, I MEAN USA-MIMI CLAN LIKE FUTABA?!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M FROM THE MAGICAL USA-MIMI CLAN

ARE YOU DRESSED YET..
..KONOHANA?
Girls' Bathroom
THIS IS KIND OF EMBARRASSING SO HURRY IT UP!
UM..NOT YET
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
A UNIFORM!!
Hee Hee!
IT'S A LITTLE BIG
OH WELL

STATIONERY SETS, 100 YEN!
ERASER
I WONDER IF SHE HAS SOME REASON...
COME ON OVER!
RICE BOWLS, 150 YEN!
TOWELS, 50 YEN!
Frog
Rabbit
Fish
It's so cheap! Maybe I'll buy it!
Whoa, this is big!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL! ♡
WOW!
200 yen

I HAVE ZERO MAGIC ABILITY!!
Wow, that's so cool!!
THEN CAN YOU USE MAGIC AND STUFF?
NOPE! NOT AT ALL!
I'M OFF TO DO BUSINESS
WELL, THEN.
THANKS FOR CARRYING IT
EH?
STILL, FOR A TEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL TO GO OUT AND WORK ON HER OWN.
SHE'S STRONG
GO BACK TO CLASS, RIKU-CHAN!
I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN ♡
KONO-HANA ?!

SHE'S KIND OF LIKE...
HUH?
SHE'S MY COUSIN, BUT...
IT'S THE LITTLE GIRL FROM THIS MORNING...
...EVEN IF I TOLD HER, SHE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME.
HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?
...A LITTLE SISTER.
OH...
HMM.
BY THE WAY MIZUNO..
IF YOU HAVE A SWEATER THAT'S TOO SMALL FOR YOU, WOULD YOU SELL IT TO ME?
SO HE HAS SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
SHE'S swimming in it
Her
YOUR SWEATER?!
MY SWEATER REALLY IS WAY TOO BIG FOR HER

PLEASE COME AGAIN!
Master!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
UGH!
SHE CAN SPEAK PROPER JAPANESE
THAT'S A RELIEF..
WHERE'D YOU GO WHEN YOU SKIPPED CLASS..
..WITH THAT GIRL?
RIKU!
HUH?
MIZUNO?

ぷる ぷる
WHAT ABOUT THE SCHOOLS IN YAMATO?
IN THE USA-MIMI CLAN'S MAGIC CITY, WHEN KIDS TURN SEVEN...
...THEY'RE TESTED FOR MAGICAL POWER.
Pat
ぽよぽよ
ぽよ～ん
THE MAGIC STONE HAS REACTED! YOU'VE PASSED!
GO OVER THERE TO CONTINUE THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE PROCESS
そ～ぃ
Pat
ピキ
ピキ
Senseng
NEXT!!
THE MAGIC STONE HAS NOT REACTED! YOU FAIL!
GO ON HOME, NOW
ガーン

キーン コーン
WHAT?
YOU SOLD EVERY-THING?
Donuts
Quite a jump
THEY'RE TRADING SWEATERS?!
MIZUNO?
We're trading what now?
IS SHE THAT CLOSE OF A "SISTER"?!
It's a kind of sweet...
Um, well...
What is this?
YOU SURE HAVE A STRANGE KIND OF COURAGE.
KONO-HANA.
Cool!
Here, this is for you
WOW.. W-
YEP! ONLY ONE THING LEFT ♡
NO ONE KNEW A THING..
WEARING A UNIFORM AND BEING AT SCHOOL...
.IS KIND OF NICE, ISN'T IT?
?
Yummy!
HEY, RIKU-CHAN
MM?

A HEALTHY INSECT-EATING PLANT, ON SALE FOR 3,000 YEN!
3-1
AND SO MY GOAL IS TO SELL EVERYTHING! ONE MORE SALE TO GO!
HELLO, EVERYONE!
UWAAAH!
SHE'S BACK!!
FLAP
FLAP
PLK
PLK
I'm worried about moving
LET'S TRY ASKING AROUND CLASS
It tried to eat Futaba before!
YOU CAN'T SELL THAT THING!
I'LL BUY IT!

FUTABA-CHAN?!
BUT..
THOSE WITHOUT POWERS CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL...
..AND THEY'RE TREATED LIKE OUTCASTS AMONG THE CLAN
KONOHANA!
NYOROKI!
..CALLED ME TO HIYOKOYA..
MY COUSIN FUTABA-CHAN, WHO WAS OUT OF SCHOOL AND HAD GONE TO GENROKU..
I SEE...
THAT'S WHY SHE WANTS TO HURRY AND BE FULLY QUALIFIED
..BUT I DON'T WANT TO FAIL AT THINGS THAT I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT POWERS I NEVER HAD TO BEGIN WITH...

IS THAT HOW IT IS? RIKU-CHAN IS SO DENSE
Good Luck!
?
BUT IF IT MEANS I CAN SELL MY LAST ITEM.
I'M SORRY. I CAN'T PART WITH IT.
Ha Ha Ha.
Time's up
Came to get her
Are you okay, konohana?
DID MIZUNO REALLY WANT AN INSECT-EATING PLANT THAT BADLY?
Was I being naive?

EARLIER, I WAS CONFUSED AND I MISUNDERSTOOD
BUT I'M OKAY NOW
B-but it's an insect-eating plant!
MIZUNO?!
Thank you miss!
PIP
I'LL BUY THAT INSECT-EATING PLANT!
BUT YOU HAVE TO TRADE ME
OOOH!
HUH?
I WANT THAT SWEATER OF RIKU'S!
Tee Hee
I'll give you mine!
AH!
Do we have a deal?!
Huff
Pant
Huff

★End of Chapter 5★

I WANT TO SEE IT ONE MORE TIME.
MY TRUE HOLY SPIRIT FORM
Meow
THIS GUY...
...IS A WELCOMING CAT MADE OF HOLY SPIRIT STONE.
HOLY SPIRITS RESIDE IN MAGIC STONES CALLED HOLY-SPIRIT STONES.
...again.
Here we go...
MY ALMIGHTY SELF WHO CALLS FORTH THE CLOUDS, COMMANDS THE WIND, AND CONTROLS THE THUNDER...
My wonderful self (back then).
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT IN A HUNDRED YEARS.
MY WELL-PROPORTIONED SELF THAT CARRIES HIMSELF IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENCHANT COMMONERS WITH HIS BEAUTY...

Chapter 4
Saika-sama's Advent

I'M VERY POPULAR RIGHT NOW
I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW, RIKU
WHAT A RUDE HOLY SPIRIT!
IF YOU DON'T IMPROVE MY WORKING CONDITIONS, I'LL DESTROY THIS SHOP AND GO TO ANOTHER ONE!
CURSED WELCOMING CAT!
Genroku Kawaraban
Mystery of Ancient Earthquake!
Hiyokoya Buys Rumored Welcoming Cat!
IT SEEMS YOU'VE GOTTEN HOLD OF A WONDERFULLY UNLUCKY CAT
I SAW THE NEWS ♡
HIYOKOYA-SAN ♡

DO YOU UNDERSTAND RIKU?
YOU MUSTN'T TOUCH THE HOLY-SPIRIT STONE, THE WELCOMING CAT.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO RELEASE HOLY SPIRITS.
PROMISE ME.
?
?
I CAN'T GET OUT. AND YOUR OFFERING IS DRIED SARDINES EVERY DAY!!
I PROMISED ICHIYA-SAN ☆
APPARENTLY I CAN TALK WITH THE HOLY SPIRITS...
...AND HAVE THE POWER TO RELEASE THEM FROM THE STONES...
DON'T YOU HAVE A MIRROR INSIDE THE STONE?
Looks like Narcissus has met his match
NO!!
AS LONG AS I'M IN HERE, I CAN'T SEE MYSELF! LET ME OUT!
NO.

.....
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...
WE APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER
Money...
The coins...
..BUT IT'S NOT FOR SALE.
BUT IT'S AN EXPENSIVE HOLY-SPIRIT STONE! IT DOESN'T BELONG AS A DECORATION IN YOUR SHOP!
EH?!
THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT REMEMBER?
I APOLOGIZE.

I COLLECT ITEMS OF THE OCCULT YOU KNOW IT'S A HOBBY OF MINE.
BY ALL MEANS, SELL ME THAT CAT!!
...I'LL BE WILLING TO PAY THE FULL PRICE.
OF COURSE..
.....
I'M WILLING TO MEET YOUR ASKING PRICE.
MRAW!

?!
がーん
YOU'D BE DISAPPOINTED IF IT WERE SOLD, WOULDN'T YOU?
DON'T WORRY!
SHE'S RIGHT!
HE BOUGHT THAT WELCOMING CAT BECAUSE RIKU LOVES IT SO MUCH!
OOPS.
I DIDN'T WANT HIM! HE JUST-
Mo...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
QUIT SLACKING AND GET BACK TO WORK!
I don't know the details.
?
THAT CUSTOMER GOT MAD AND HIT HIM WITH A TEACUP
WHAT HAPPENED, ICHI-NII?
WHAT?
Even I suffered
MIO...
You don't have to tell them

I'M OUT OF HERE!
Customer negotiation entrance
AW...
DANG!
All after that same cat
THAT MAKES SEVEN CUSTOMERS NOW
SHEEP'S
?
ICHI-NII SURE IS WORKING HARD
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S FOR RIKU-CHAN
They're curious and they have the money to spend
ARE THERE THAT MANY FANS OF THE OCCULT?

BUT...
...FOR FIVE YEARS, I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR THE BOY.
THAT DAMN THING! THERE'S THE COST OF OFFERINGS AND WE STILL HAVE THIRTY-FIVE PAYMENTS LEFT ON IT..
I hate water, whether it's hot or cold.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO BUY IT, EITHER.
YOU SPOIL HIM!
HMPH!
Stain removal
NOW I WANT TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN FOR HIM
YOU REALLY..
...DON'T WANT IT HERE, DO YOU?
OF ALL THINGS
...IT HAD TO BE A HOLY-SPIRIT STONE

RIKU?
I HAVE TO GO APOLOGIZE!
HE'S HURT!
I'M COVERED IN TEA THANKS TO THAT DAMN WELCOMING CAT
SHEESH..
COULD IT BE...
I CAUSED ICHIYA-SAN A LOT OF TROUBLE
BY BRINGING THE CAT HERE?
GOOD THING THE TEA WAS COLD
Seeing as your tongue is sensitive
SO. WHY WON'T YOU SELL IT?
THE three of you, get back to work.
You have ten seconds!

Remarkable Mischievous Cat
I DON'T NEED ANY MORE CALCIUM.
I'M ALREADY TALLER AND HAVE LONGER LEGS THAN THE AVERAGE HUMAN.
WHAT'S THIS?
DRIED SARDINES FOR LUNCH, TOO?
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE BAD DEEP DOWN, BUT...
time for lunch SHIPPO
WHAT IS IT, RIKU? YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET
ER... ER?
...I MUST NOT USE
IT'S A POWER

!
NO... I DON'T.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT IS LIVING INSIDE.
AND IF RIKU LETS IT OUT..
...HE MIGHT GET REALLY HURT.
YOU SPOIL HIM!
Can you count on that?
...HE PROMISED HE WOULDN'T TOUCH IT
BUT.
OH!

UWAAAH!
WE LOST A CHECK!!
KONO-HANA!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AH! RIKU-CHAN!
Check
IT'S ONE FOR A LOT OF MONEY THAT WE GOT FROM A MAJOR CUSTOMER!

WHAT'S UP?
Riku!
FUTAJIMA?
Riku! Riku!
There's trouble at the store!
WHAT?
Temporarily Closed

RIKU!! THE SHOP'S SURE IN AN UPROAR, ISN'T IT?
YO!
IS IT MY TURN YET?
OW!!
RIKU!!
I...
I'LL TRY.
RIKU
CHECK. IT'LL BE HARD BECAUSE IT'S NOT A LIVING THING...
す?

ECHO
MOTOR?
MOTOR?
YOU MORON!
SATSUKI-CHAN FORGOT WHERE HE PUT IT!
I WAS COUNTING ON THAT CHECK TO MAKE A HUGE PAYMENT TONIGHT!!
LET'S SEE WHERE DID I LEAVE IT?
R--
RUINED ?!
IF YOU DON'T FIND IT, THE STORE WILL BE RUINED!!
SATSUKI!
RIKU
YOU'RE GOOD AT FINDING THINGS, RIGHT?
HUH?
PLEASE HELP US FIND THAT CHECK!
ICHIYA-SAN
MIO.
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.

DON'T YOU CARE IF THE STORE IS RUINED?
I'LL FIND IT MYSELF!
I SAID NO!!
I COULD FIND THAT STUPID SCRAP OF PAPER IN THREE SECONDS!
WHY NOT JUST LEAVE IT TO ME?
WELCOM ING CAT?
RIKU?!
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THE STORE IF YOU DON'T FIND IT IN TIME?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME!
MOTONI
"I DON'T KNOW"...
.....
"...WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT IS LIVING INSIDE"
I'M BREAKING MY PROMISE ☆
ICHIYA-SAN...I'M SORRY.
RIKU ?

SAI..
KA.
I'M NOT "WELCOMING CAT."
MY NAME IS SAIKA.
I WANT TO PROTECT THE STORE.
LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH WELCOMING CAT
HE WOULDN'T...
RIKU...!!
WELL SAID, RIKU!!
YOU HAD ME GOING THERE, REALLY.

THE MAGNIFICENT HOLY SPIRIT WHO CALLS FORTH THE CLOUDS AND COMMANDS THE WIND..
SAIKA-SAMA HAS ARRIVED!!

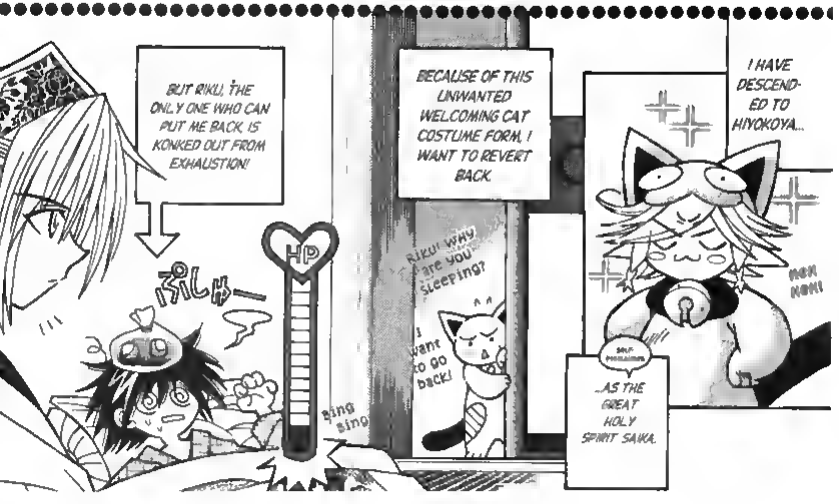
!
RIKU?!
NOW THE MOMENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
RIKU!!!
IT'S BEEN A HUNDRED YEARS.. ♡
SINCE I'VE FELT THE WIND ON MY FACE.

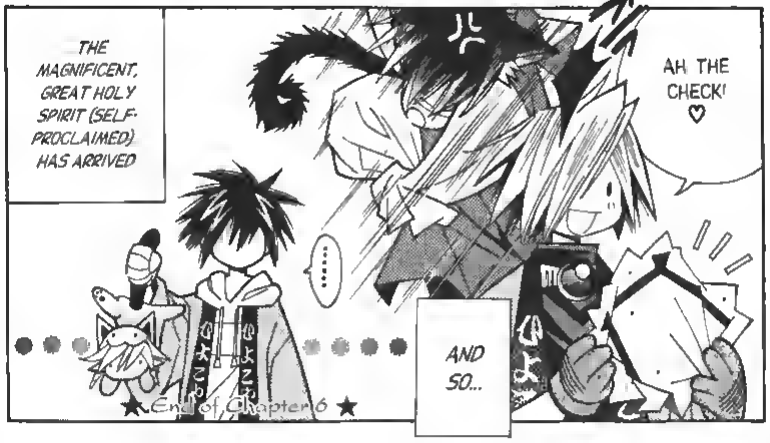
oh no, I can't get it off!
NO!
THIS ISN'T MY PROPER FORM!!
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'LL BE MAKING ANY TROUBLE.
YOUNG MASTER.
HE'S WEARING A COSTUME!
SO, THE HOLY SPIRIT INSIDE A WELCOMING CAT IS A WELCOMING CAT AFTER ALL!
It looks like we can be friends
THE STONE I WAS IN WAS ACTUALLY MADE INTO A WELCOMING CAT
I'M STUCK AS A STUPID LITTLE BODY WEARING A CAT COSTUME!!
IT'S THE STONE'S FAULT
THIS IS NO TIME FOR THAT, YOU IDIOT!
WHERE'S THE CHECK?
WELL?
HELLO? THE CHECK?
?
ZIPPER WON'T UNZIP

.....
HE'S SO TINY!
BONK
WOWZERS!
YOU'RE A WELCOMING CAT HOLY SPIRIT!
WHY DO I LOOK LIKE THIS?!
YOU'RE SO CUTE!
WHAT?!

Chapter 7

Saika-sama's Advent, Still in Progress


BUT RIKU, THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PUT ME BACK IS KONKED OUT FROM EXHAUSTION!
HP
ぷしゅー
ging ging
BECAUSE OF THIS UNWANTED WELCOMING CAT COSTUME FORM, I WANT TO REVERT BACK.
Riku! Why are you sleeping?
I want to go back!
I HAVE DESCENDED TO HIYOKOYA...
nan nan!
SAIKA PROCLAIMS
...AS THE GREAT HOLY SPIRIT SAIKA.



★ End of Chapter 6 ★

AW, IT'S NO USE..
I CAN'T GET INTO THE GROOVE AT ALL, LOOKING LIKE THIS
HE'S KIND OF A PAIN IN THE REAR
HISS!
HUSH
HUSH
HISS!
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK THAT WAY TO A GREAT HOLY SPIRIT
IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING HELP US PICK UP! DANG IT!
HOW RUDE!!
Hey!
YEAH, A FREAK HOLY SPIRIT..
He's losing to the goldfish
Lame
WHOA
Ow ow ow!
Give me a break!
HUGYA!
AH..

AND SO..
YOU DARE GIVE ORDERS TO A GREAT HOLY SPIRIT?
YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL RIKU'S AWAKE.
So many fivers
Big sale
ぽつーん
Cleaning up the shop
Come here!
WHIRLWIND..
MUNCH
MUNCH
THUNDER..
MUNCH
They gave him a snack.

EUREKA!
EUREKA!
KONOHANA'S SECRET CANDY JAR!
THE BIRDIE ORNAMENT SATSUKI BROKE AND HID UNDER THE SHOP FLOOR!!
SEE? ♡
I CAN TELL WHAT'S WHERE WITH ONE GLANCE.
GLEAM
I'm sorry. I won't do it again..
THAT'S KIND OF COOL
WHAT EXACTLY IS...
...THAT POWER?

I MAY BE IN THIS FORM
...BUT MY BASIC HOLY SPIRIT POWERS ARE WORKING JUST FINE
Hmm?
WAIT...
WE HAVE THIRTY-FIVE PAYMENTS LEFT ON THIS?
カチン
dp
How disappointing
MEH!
HOLY SPIRITS AREN'T ALL THAT GREAT
HUMPH!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK!!
BEHOLD!
CHING
Oh my
DIARY
THE HEAD CLERK'S SECRET STASH AND DIARIES HIDDEN IN THE CABINET!
He has lots, too!

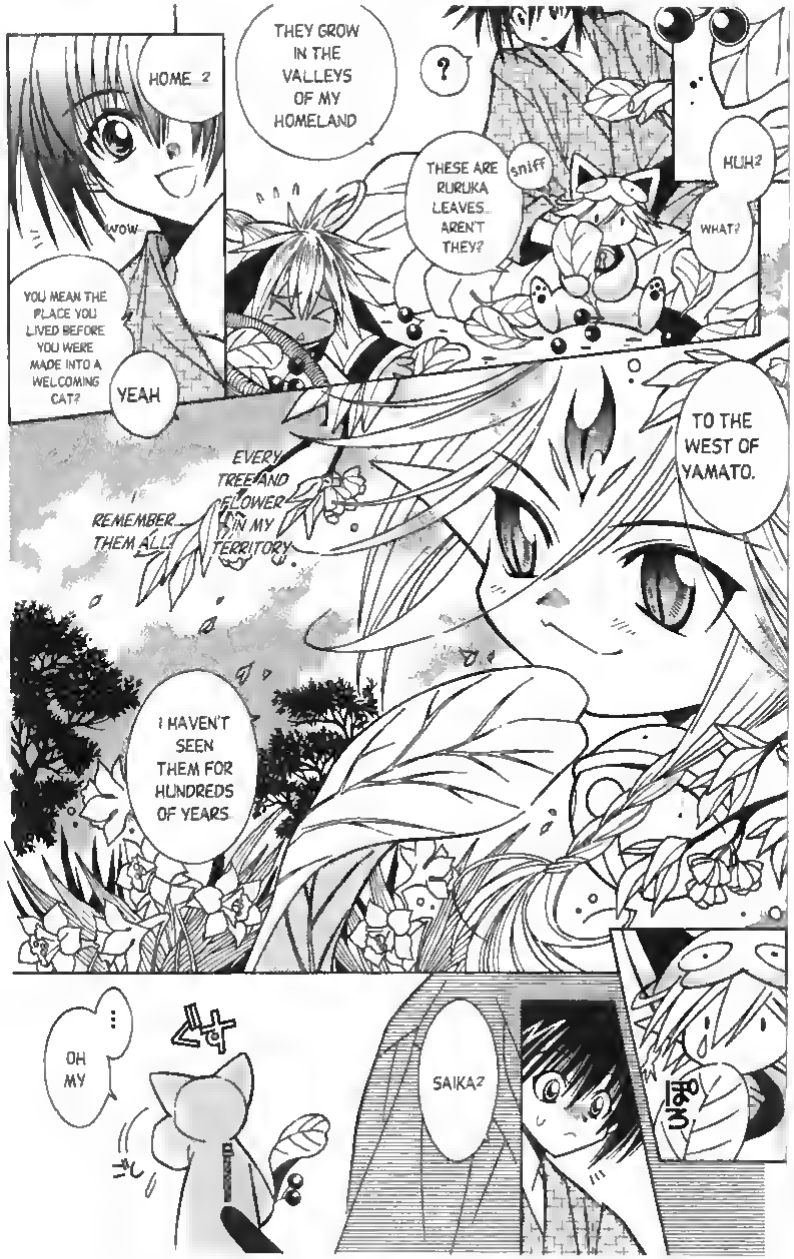
SHUT
FUTABA!
がば!
RIKU...
NO, YOU HAVE TO LIE DOWN.
come now.
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

SINCE THE WELCOMING CAT HOLY-SPIRIT STONE WAS PLACED HERE...
..HIYOKOYA HAS BEEN MY TERRITORY.
swiped some candy
I CALL IT "THE POWER TO SEE ALL IN MY TERRITORY!!" ♡
RIP
ribbon stash
it's my territory!
IT'S LIKE RIKU'S POWER TO FIND THINGS.
Hmm.
Riku isn't this nasty.
Are you still hiding things?
WHAT SHOULD I FIND NEXT? ♡
NOW THEN...

RIKUUU!!
IF YOU GRIND THEM LIKE THIS..
..AND DISSOLVE THEM IN HOT WATER
BONK
PLAY WITH ME!
More secret broken items found under the floor...
All missing secrets found are ours!
Waaah
Saatsuuuzz!!
I FOUND TOO MANY THINGS...
AND GOT TIRED OF IT
DON'T PLAY WITH THE HERBS!
WEREN'T YOU JUST PLAYING AROUND THE STORE?
WAH!
SAIKA!
boing
boing
Hm?

I CAME HERE TO HELP, BUT I ENDED UP CAUSING PROBLEMS IT'S PATHETIC
UGH..
I'M FINE
BUT
..YOU USED UP AN AWFUL LOT OF ENERGY TO RELEASE SAIKA-SAMA, DIDN'T YOU?
.....
IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAUSE PROBLEMS
THIS IS YOUR HOME, RIKU.
THEY WORK TO HEAL FATIGUE. THEY'LL BE GOOD FOR YOU, RIKU
THEY'RE MEDICINAL HERBS.
WHAT ARE THOSE LEAVES?
?

SAIKA.
I kind of WANT TO GO BACK THERE
IT MIGHT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
RIKU..
WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR HOME?
...
WILL YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES?
ONLY YOU, RIKU..
I'LL SHOW ONLY YOU


HOME 2
WOW
YOU MEAN THE PLACE YOU LIVED BEFORE YOU WERE MADE INTO A WELCOMING CAT?
YEAH
THEY GROW IN THE VALLEYS OF MY HOMELAND
?
THESE ARE RURUKA LEAVES... AREN'T THEY?
sniff
HUH?
WHAT?
I REMEMBER THEM ALL!
EVERY TREE AND FLOWER IN MY TERRITORY.
TO THE WEST OF YAMATO.
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
OH MY
SAIKA?
POW

EH?
WHAT...
...IS THIS?
はっ
UWAAH!
Riku?!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
DID YOU SEE IT?
WELL?

Hello! I'm Yuriko Suda ♡. Presenting *Pick of the Litter* volume 1. I truly thank you for reading it.♡♡ I'm so happy! ♡ *Pick of the Litter* is a manga that I started wanting to draw as a "whole family running a store together" situation. At first, I thought of giving it a fake Chinese flavor, but before I knew it, it had a fake Edo flavor. While my heart is pounding, I wonder if it will keep the reader with a sense of anticipation. I enjoy drawing Riku and the others every time ♡. I appreciate your support. I would love to hear your opinions! ♡

My lucky day in December is 3 Yuriko Suda With ♥ Love! Love!

☆ SPECIAL♡THANKS! ☆

The Helping Angels: NANO-SAN! OEGUCHI-SAN!

Series Editor: N-SAWA-SAMA! I'm always causing you trouble!

Thank you to everyone on the Asuka editorial staff & Tankoubon editor, S-aa-sama.

Yuriko Suda HomePage "http://sudamaga.xuu.jp/index.htm"

come visit, okay?

I MAY BE IN WELCOMING CAT FORM, BUT I WILL GO BACK SOON!
I see you've cheered up
That was Riku's medicine!
SEE? ♡
ISN'T MY HOMELAND A NICE PLACE? ♡
...you come visit, Riku!
When I do...
Yeah yeah
AND SO...
SAIKA WENT BACK TO THE WELCOMING CAT HOLY SPIRIT STONE.
I won't let you go back until we've made all the payments!!
Venerable Welcoming Cat
HOW-EVER...
...THE ROAD SURE SEEMS LONG.
THIRTY-FIVE LEFT, HUH?

★ End of Chapter ★

HIYOKOYA STORE BULLETIN BOARD
Come one, come all to Hiyokoya's next big sale--in the other world of "Japan"! Let Satsuki be your guide through all the treats we have, but do mind our bothersome fellow vendors, Echigoya.
Make way for Mikasa, our third...and most pathetic brother of the Hiyokoya family. When he's not blowing our money at the tracks, he's dragging poor Riku through a whirlwind of trouble.
Our very own shop attendant, Riku, is celebrating his birthday in the Hiyokoya Shop! But when it comes to surprises...some doors are best left closed.
WANTED
Mysterious holy-spirit stone, known for pulling innocent victims into its trap. Considered dangerous.

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Find you thought **your** family reunions were crazy!

Riku joins his whacky long-lost family in the mythical land of Yamato and finds he's got a few new siblings! One cat, two rabbits... Sounds more like a zoo than a home! He may be new in town, but Riku's pledged to lead the family business of Hiyokoya to the top—and no sneaky competitors, smart-mouthed cats, or mysterious magic stones are about to stop him!

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